

SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR TO THE  
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# THE SEAC'S READING LIST



TRANSLATING KNOWLEDGE  
INTO ACTION

2020 EDITION



2020

# THE FIRST EDITION

- *Leadership Secrets of Attila The Hun*  
By Dr. Wess Roberts
- *Let The Word Go Forth*  
By Theodore Sorensen
- *Military Leadership: In Pursuit of Excellence*  
By Robert L. Taylor, William E. Rosenbach, and  
Eric B. Rosenbach
- *Moving Mountains: Lessons on Life  
and Leadership*  
By Reinhold Messner
- *Shackleton's Way: Leadership Lessons from the  
Great Antarctic Explorer*  
By Margot Morrell and Stephanie Capparell

The future of warfare requires advanced thinking to win.

The purpose of this reading list is to enhance the scope of your thoughts on leadership and share some works that have helped me throughout my military career. Through self discovery and analysis of the content in each book, I want to help you develop new approaches to leadership.

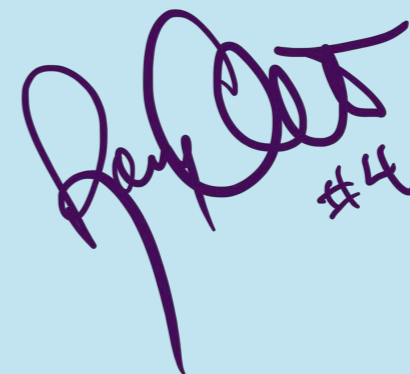
The true aim of an education is not knowledge but action inspired and informed by that knowledge. For those seeking to improve themselves and the environment they're in, these books will serve you well--as long as you act upon that knowledge. Through knowledge, we develop courage. Courage drives action and action drives results.

The recommended reading is not intended to be "checked blocks" or fodder on annual evals. This and future compilations will help us become a more ready, capable and agile Joint Force team.

The knowledge and insight I have gained from these readings has shaped who I am today, my leadership style, and my bias for action. I hope they serve the same value in your quest for excellence and victory.

Before embarking on this reading list, every warfighter should first revisit the words of our U.S. Constitution to which we swear an oath to uphold and defend--unto death.

As carnivore leaders, the mind is the warrior's greatest weapon--exercise it.



# 2020 SELECTION

My warrior ethos, profession as a pararescueman, and active lifestyle led to the selection of these literary works. This year, I decided to focus on some of my early readings--many of which I continuously reference for wisdom. As you explore the messages within each book, I encourage you to find works that compliment your lifestyle and interests. I guarantee it will make the learning experience more meaningful.

## *The Leadership Secrets of Attila the Hun*

By Dr. Wess Roberts

This was the very first leadership book I was given and it quickly became my "go-to" text on all things pertaining to leadership. Here you will find metaphorical references to Attila's aggressive approach to leadership and how to balance compassion, toughness, and drive to accomplish what many would deem impossible. I have provided many peers, leaders, and subordinates copies of this great book as a testament of how much I have valued its message.





***Let the Word Go Forth***  
**By Theodore Sorensen**

In my quest to master public speaking and pointed messaging, I studied the method of President John F. Kennedy. A great orator and writer, President Kennedy was able to reach and touch millions across the globe during extremely challenging times. He was the master of providing hope to many and inspiring faith in our Nation's leadership. This book explores his speeches, statements, and writings and their effectiveness. I always refer to his work when drafting letters, writing my speeches, and in my conversations with others.



***Military Leadership: In Pursuit of Excellence***  
**By Robert Taylor, William Rosenbach, and Eric Rosenbach**

The first time I read this book was 2009 when it was given to me by a former commander. It is a study of past military leaders and real situations where they had to dig deep within their character to develop the right solutions and appropriate courses of action. The book has chapters on leadership, character, generalship (important for those enlisted personnel working directly with general and flag officers), and the future of military leadership. I often reflect back to 2009, look where I am today, and realize how much of what I learned is related to this text.



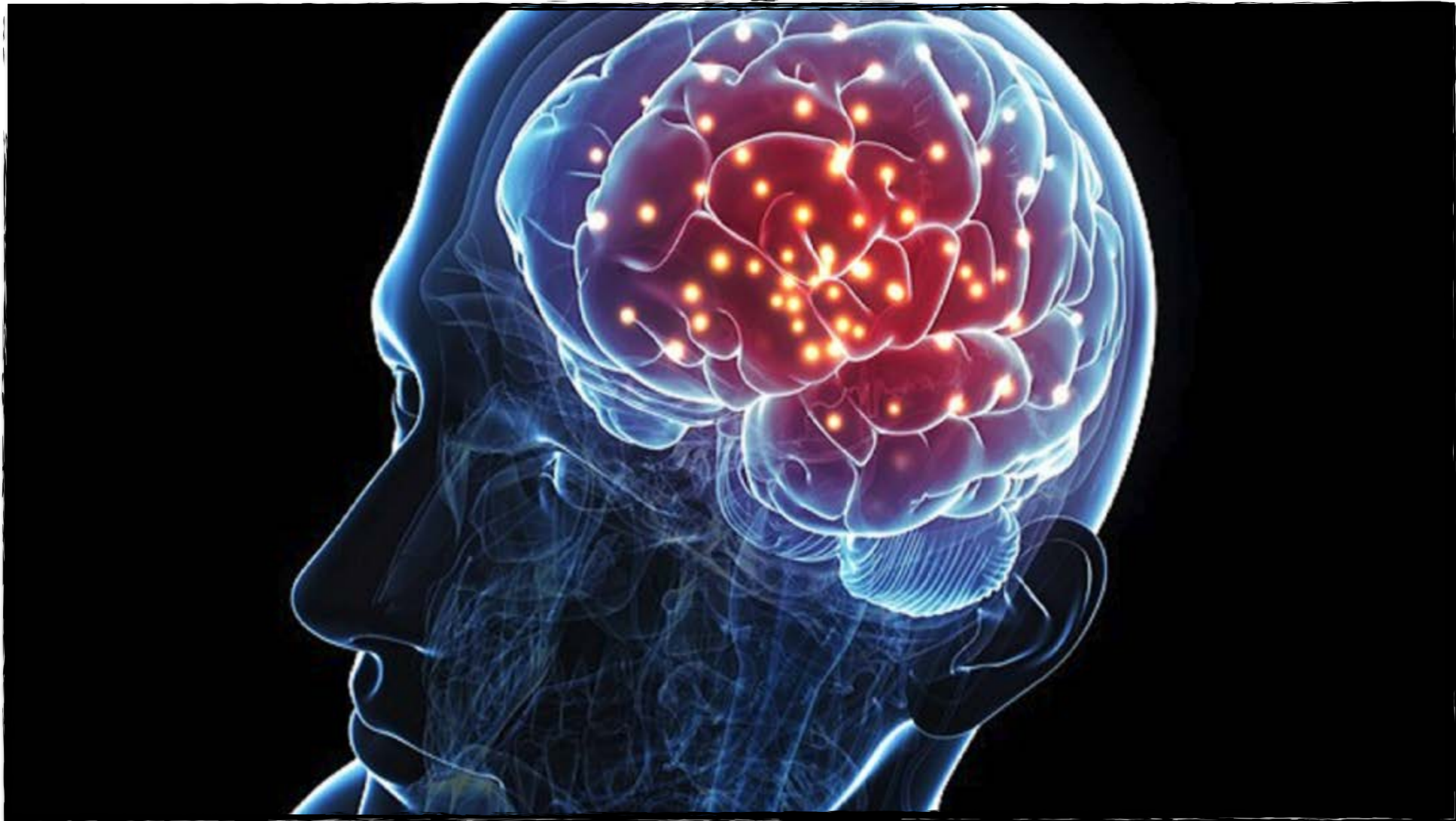
***Moving Mountains: Lessons on Life and Leadership***  
**By Reinhold Messner**

I have always had a passion for the mountains--my adult playground and testing ground for skills, motivation, and perseverance. Mr. Messner is one of the world's most accomplished mountaineers as well as a great philosopher who puts life into perspective by pursuing the challenges of extreme climbing in the most austere conditions across the globe. He always pushes his limits and motivates me to push mine.



***Shackleton's Way: Leadership Lessons from the Great Antarctic Explorer***  
**By Margot Morrell and Stephanie Capparell**

I was first exposed to the story of Sir Ernest Shackleton in 2000 while assigned to Ft. Bragg. The greatest lesson I learned from this book was how charismatic leadership and humility can accomplish the seemingly impossible. As I read the book, I found many similarities between the way Shackleton led his men and the way I was leading my fellow warriors in combat. Personality does, indeed, go a long way--it can even save lives...and it has!



*The mind is the warrior's greatest weapon—Exercise it!*

Why only five books? Reading can expand your imagination and motivation internally, and influence exemplary behavior externally.

As leaders of character, competence and commitment, I want you to have enough time to not only *read*, but also *study and reflect* on the content.

Expect a new list to roll out every year during my tenure as your SEAC, all with the purpose of creating knowledgeable, action-oriented leaders.

I look forward to our many discussions during my travels.

Proud and honored to be your teammate,

- CZ

